

# Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association

## President Update – May 2020

May 5, 2020

Hello from Big Cedar Lake,

I have to say right off the top that this will not be your normal Spring Newsletter from your Lake Association. COVID 19 has changed how “normal” is defined. All aspects of our lives have been impacted. The Board realizes everyone in our Lake Community will be feeling the COVID 19 impact in some way. That could be through health issues in your immediate or extended family or through a variety of financial/ job challenges that you face. The thoughts of the Board are with everyone in our Lake Community and we wish all members continued strength and good health through these challenging times.

I also think there is not a better medicine or an escape from COVID 19 than by taking some time to think about how lucky we all are to be on Big Cedar Lake. I am sure there are many memories each of you will have about Big Cedar Lake that will bring a smile to your face and that for a moment will allow you to forget all about the other issues going on in the world.

Today, I am pleased to provide you with an update from the Board on the various items your Association is currently dealing with:

- Healthy Lake Program
  - Trent University Report, Conclusions & Recommendations
  - Board Recommendations
  - Water Testing Program
- Annual BCLSA Membership Fee Request (\$15)
- AGM – How it may look for 2020
- Board Member Recruitment

### ***Healthy Lake Program***

#### ***The Trent University – Big Cedar Lake Milfoil Report***

The Trent University Report for 2019 is now posted on the BCLSA website at the following link: <https://www.bclsa.ca/weevil/>. What I would like to provide you with now, is a brief overview of the report and outline what your Board is recommending for 2020.

Without question our battle with Eurasian Milfoil continues, but by having the Trent University team working on our lake for the past five years, Big Cedar is in much better shape with respect to the management of Milfoil than most other lakes in Ontario. In addition, we as a Board continue to learn more about what the challenges are in managing a “healthy lake”.

For 2019, the association ran two different Mat programs. The first one was run by Trent University with five treatment sites identified. The five treatment sites saw five vegetated benthic mats installed. No Weevils were stocked around the Mats this year, as no new supplier of Weevils was identified. In addition to the Trent mats, the Association purchased directly from Weed be Gone, 5 mats that were installed by the Association.

*Conclusions:*

- Trent concluded that the vegetated Mat program saw some success but was unable to identify a process to make it scalable for a larger Lake program. In addition, they did not identify a new Weevil supplier for the 2020 season.
- The **non vegetated** mats still provided a viable solution for heavy traffic areas where there was milfoil to try to minimize further fragmentation of the milfoil and subsequent new growth.

In addition to last year's mat program, the Trent report dealt with two other issues: a) Starry Stonewart and b) Concentrations of Microplastics in Lakes

- a) Starry Stonewart has arrived in Big Cedar Lake. It was identified in the fall around the public boat launch in the southeast corner of the lake (refer to map below). There is an extensive write up on Starry Stonewart in the Trent report on the Healthy Lake Program (link in this letter, above). Starry Stonewart can become a more significant problem for our Lake than Milfoil. The concern with it, is there is no known treatment for it and it grows rapidly. In the short term, this spring we are going to put markers around, and try to remove the small patches we have by the boat ramp. In addition, we have asked the Municipal Council to consider restricting the use of the public boat ramp – it is believed the Starry Stonewart came into our Lake via an external boat. We realize many people may still need to use this boat ramp – but if you do, please stay away from the Starry Stonewart. Boats/canoes travelling through Starry Stonewart will cause it to fragment and then spread rapidly into different parts of the Lake. We are also asking all members to report any other sightings of Starry Stonewart in the Lake.

Please see the pictures below of Starry Stonewart:



Approximate location of Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) growth (blue shaded areas), as of October 2019, near the public boat launch in Big Cedar Lake:



- b) Microplastics – you may have read in the news about the concern about Microplastics in our Oceans. Apparently, there is also concern about microplastics concentrations in our freshwater lakes. At no cost to our Association, Trent is involved in a study that is looking at this issue in the Kawartha Lakes, with Big Cedar being part of the study. The results will be published in the spring 2020.

## ***Board Recommendations***

### **Part One – Trent University**

- a) For this year, we will not be contracting Trent to install vegetated mats in our Lake
- b) We have asked Trent to present a low-cost proposal where they will still survey vegetation growth (ie: milfoil, Starry Stonewort, etc.) in our lake
- c) Continue at no cost to our Association, the study looking at Microplastics in our Lake.

### **Part Two – Starry Stonewort**

- a) The Association will take every step possible to address the Starry Stonewort that was discovered at the Boat Launch, to prevent its spread to the rest of the Lake.

## ***2020 Contribution Request***

### ***Healthy Lake Contribution (\$0 for 2020)***

Based on the above recommendations and the fact that there are some funds in the Healthy Lake Reserve Account, we are recommending that we do not have a fund raising program for this year and any costs to battle Starry Stonewort be paid out of the reserve fund.

### ***BCLSA Membership Fee (\$15 / year)***

We will still be asking people to renew their association membership for \$15. This fee funds the association's minor administrative expenses and external association fees that keep our lake in good standing with the Lake Associations that we interact with and learn from. In addition, these fees pay for other minor expenses not covered in the Healthy Lake budget.

Thank you in advance for your support. Please see the attached submission form.

## ***Water Testing Program***

In 2019, under the direction of Board Member Diane Trauzzi and her husband Ralph, our water testing program had been greatly expanded. The water testing results for our lake are published on the website at the following link: <https://www.bclsa.ca/lake-data/>. For 2020, the Board has agreed to continue to support this very important program.

We will continue with the testing performed for and reported by KLSA which compares us to other lakes. In addition, we will continue with Ecoli testing in six strategic spots on our lake, and we will also continue participating in the NORKLA/Trent University water testing program which provides us with many more advanced water tests not otherwise accessible to us. We are also setting up specific testing for Dissolved Oxygen in our Lake. The Board believes water quality is of keen interest to all members and is thus a good investment for our association.

Although we have a very specific plan for water testing this summer, the plan may need to be revised depending on the timing of reopening of labs and universities that are currently shut down as a result of COVID 19.

## ***Association Business and Annual General Meeting***

### ***Annual General Meeting***

The AGM is usually scheduled for the May long weekend. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions, that membership gathering will not be happening. Once we better understand our options, we will be in contact with the membership.

### ***Board Members***

Normally at the AGM, Board members will be elected. With the delay of the AGM, the current Board will continue to serve until we develop our next options. We are always interested in welcoming new Board members, so please consider joining the team – we always welcome and need fresh perspectives.

Take care, see you (hopefully) in the summer.

*Brian Stock*

President  
Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association